



ASPIRE

Scaling up of the Targeting Hardcore Poor Program

Report

Milestone 3



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by

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Report

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**Project Supported by:
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Award-AID-OAA-F-14-00029 "Scaling-up Targeting the Hard-core Poor (THP)"

Project Year 1
2014-15 (September,1-2014 to August,31-2015)

Milestone No.3
[September,1 2014 – February,28 2015]

The milestone No.3 deliverable

Up-dated Implementation Report

Up-dated Implementation Report

Approach 1: Direct field implementation of supporting beneficiaries

Activities : Upto Quarter 2

- A] Selection of beneficiaries
- B] Base-line survey is running
- C] First Asset Transfer to beneficiaries (stage I)
- D] Training of beneficiaries
- E] Household visit/Handholding support and follow up of assets
- F] Field Staff capacity building - training for branch staff



Direct implementation is going on in both the states – Odisha and Bihar in India. Seven (7) field level branch Offices are established and operational. Bihar has 5 branch offices and Odisha has 2 branch offices which are residential field branch offices. As of now Total 7 Branch-In-Charge and 21 Community Organisers (COs) are working to support the beneficiaries. Training of branch staff is completed, selection of beneficiaries, training and grant assets are being provided to them.



Names of project branch offices in Bihar are Kahalgaon, Shibnaryanpur, Ghoga, Sabour, Naugachhia branch; for Odisha branches are Rajkonika & Pattamundai. The districts are Bhagapalur (about 160 km from state HQ Patna) in Bihar and Kendrapara (about 90 km from state HQ Bhubaneshwar) in Odisha. In Bhagalpur district of Bihar the blocks are Naugachhia, Kahalgaon & Sabour where the branch offices are located presently. In Kendrapara district of Odisha blocks are Rajkonika & Patamundai.



Total 744 beneficiaries are identified and selected for grant assets and support (table given below). During the beneficiary selection process Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method has been applied and people are involved in verifying information for identification & final selection. Pro Poor Support committee (Ati Daridra Sahayak Committee – ADSC) are formed to monitor and support beneficiaries – poorest women and to look after the progressions.

Status of the field branch offices

Description	Bihar	Odisha	Total
	Q2 of Y1 (2014-15)		
Number of beneficiary families presently being served	564	180	744
Number of field branch offices	5	2	7
Number of Area Coordinators	1	1	2
Number of Branch-in-charge	5	2	7
Number of Community Organisers	15	6	21



Beneficiary selection process



Micro Enterprise started

Approach 2 : Advocacy

As part of our outreach activities for facilitation of the scale-up of the THP programme in Odisha, a launch event for THP pilot was organized on February 5, 2015. The programme was launched by Mr. Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda, Member of Parliament for Kendrapara, at an event organized by Bandhan-Konnagar and J-PAL South Asia in Pattaimunde block in Kendrapara. Mr. Chandrasekhar Ghosh, Chairman and Managing Director, Bandhan Financial Services Ltd., Mr. Debashish Roy Choudhuri, CEO Bandhan-Konnagar, Mr. Jasmine Shah, Associate Director of Policy, J-PAL South Asia also attended the event. More than 200 local beneficiary women were also present at the event. At the event, farm assets like cows, and goats, non-farm assets like material for setting up grocery, readymade garment, and cosmetic selling business were provided to selected beneficiary women. The press release sent to local media, coverage of the event in the local newspapers and pictures are attached as annexures. J-PAL South Asia will build upon the momentum created by this successful launch event to reach out to key stakeholders for THP scale-up in Odisha.

Mr. Jay Panda is closely associated with bringing this project to Odisha and said, “THP programme, which has been tested rigorously by world-class economists from J-PAL and found to be effective, targets extremely poor women in rural areas who have no asset base and mainly depend on begging and wage labor as their primary source of income. Very few programmes are designed for this segment of the poor, so today I am very happy to launch a such a programme for them.”

In his opening remark Mr. C.S. Ghosh said “THP programme aims to bring inspirational change in the lives of rural women who are extremely poor by helping them build sustainable sources of income”.

In Bihar, the process of identifying key stakeholders for further scale-up has been initiated. Preliminary meetings have been organized by J-PAL with the stakeholders: Mr. Sanjay Kabir, Head, Monitoring, Skill Development Cell, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society ; Mr. Chintan Raj, Prime Minister Rural Development Fellow, Posted at Rural Development Department, Bihar ; Senior officials from JSW Foundation, CSR group of Tata Power and ITC. ITC has already confirmed interest in supporting THP scale-up in Bihar through its CSR funds.



Approach 3 : Provision of Technical Assistance

Provision of technical assistance is to be started after partnership for the technical assistance services. Advocacy activities have been started and consultations going on with the probable organisations that will bring probable partners or implementers who will receive technical assistance from Bandhan to implement THP program in the project states, besides, some organisations in other states of India are interested may be TA partner for the THP program.

Approach 4 : Process Documentation

J-PAL has started documenting the process of setting up of the THP programme by Bandhan in states of Bihar and Odisha. A draft format for the process document has been prepared based on review of existing resources on process documentation. Two field-based project managers have been appointed by J-PAL South Asia and are based in Bhubaneswar, Odisha and Patna, Bihar, to lead the process documentation exercise with close support from J-PAL's Delhi based policy team.

During the reporting period, following field visits were made by project managers to observe and document various aspects of THP implementation: participatory rural appraisal for identifying beneficiaries, training, Weekly meeting held for beneficiaries after asset transfer and interaction with the field staff ,etc.

Implementation Report

Period: September 2014 – February 2015 (6-months)

Description	Bihar		Odisha		Project	
	Current	Cumulative	Current	Cumulative	Current	Cumulative
1) Branches opened	-	5	-	2	-	7
2) Beneficiaries served :						
- 2(i) Beneficiaries selected	353	564	132	180	485	744
- 2(ii) Beneficiaries trained (<i>Confidence Building & Enterprise development</i>)	353	564	132	180	485	744
- 2(iii) Beneficiaries given enterprise grant assets	494	494	151	151	645	645
3) Number of beneficiaries financially included	-	-	-	-	-	-
4) Average monthly income of beneficiaries served	16 USD	16 USD	16 USD	16 USD	16 USD	16 USD
5) Number of beneficiaries that have "Graduated"	-	-	-	-	-	-
6) Number of beneficiaries that have dropped out of program	-	-	-	-	-	-
7) Interfacing with stakeholders and Partners	2	2	2	2	2	2
8) Advocacy Resource Materials(Process document)	1	1	1	1	1	1
9) Integration of THP model	-	-	-	-	-	-

10) Note : Advocacy resource document is under preparation.